



# **The HUD Healthy Homes Initiative: Reducing Housing-Related Health Hazards**

HUD Office of Health Homes and Lead Hazard  
Control

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# HUD's Healthy Homes Initiative

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- Objective to develop methods to improve IEQ in low income housing, focusing on identifying and mitigating “high priority” health and safety hazards for children
- Funded at ~ \$10 million/yr since 1999
- Funds awarded primarily through competitive grants for demonstration projects and technical studies



# Priority Hazards/Concerns

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- Allergens/asthma
- Asbestos
- Combustion products
- Lead
- Mold and Moisture
- Insects and Rodents
- Pesticides
- Radon
- “Take Home” Hazards & Work at Home
- Unintentional Injuries/ Fire



# Asthma and Allergens

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- ~ 20 million Americans diagnosed with asthma (6 - 7 million children)
- 3 million lost work days and 14 million lost school days each year from asthma
- Reducing exposure to asthma triggers (e.g., mold and moisture control, reducing allergen levels) is a common focus of Healthy Homes Programs.



# **Preliminary Results From Asthma Intervention Study in Cleveland**

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Interventions to address mold and moisture in homes of asthmatic children resulted in significant reductions in:

- ◆ Emergency medical care use
- ◆ Asthma symptom scores
- ◆ Number of symptom days during recall period



# HUD Hope VI Program

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- Funds replacement of most distressed public housing with safer, more sustainable communities
- Important target population for physical activity initiatives
- Louisville Public Housing Authority received a RWJ grant to implement a “healthy living” grant